Extradition Treaty with Spain

1686. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sign extradition treaty with Spain to deal with offenders including those committing economic crimes;

(b) if so, by when the treaty is likely to be signed;

(c) the countries with whom India has signed extradition treaty, so far; and

(d) whether any efforts are being made to sign the extradition treaty with all the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Extradition Treaty with Spain has been signed on 20th June, 2002.

(c) India has signed extradition treaties with Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, UK, USA and Uzbekistan.

(d) Conclusion of an extradition treaty is a bilateral process and proposals are initiated after ascertaining the interest of other countries in concluding extradition treaties with India. Proposals for extradition treaties with 28 countries are at various stages of consideration / negotiation.

Indo-Australian ties

1687. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia has sought to expand bilateral ties in the field of education, economy, environment and traditional sectors such as mining, etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Australian Foreign Minister during his visit to India in April, 2002 has expressed keen interest in Indian mining;

(c) whether the Australian Minister had met various Union Ministers and had discussions regarding various issues;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been signed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Both India and Australia are keen to expand bilateral ties in all fields including education, economic, environment and traditional sectors such as mining.

(b) During his visit to India in April 2002 to attend the 2nd India-Australia Ministerial Framework Dialogue, the Australian Foreign Minister Mr. Alexander Downer expressed keen interest in cooperation in various fields including mining, to increase economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

(c) The Australian Foreign Minister met External Affairs Minister with whom he reviewed bilateral, regional issues and international issues of mutual concern. The Foreign Minister also called on Prime Minster, Home Minister, Defence Minister, Culture & Tourism Minister, and Commerce & Industry Minister. The subjects discussed during these meetings included growing bilateral political relationship, and our expanding trade, investment, energy, education and tourism links.

(d) and (e) Two MoUs were signed during the visit-the MoU on Co-operation in the field of Tourism and the MoU on Cultural Heritage Co-operation between Aus Heritage, Australia's network of heritage practitioners and Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

Change in American attitude and perception towards India

1688. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sea change in the attitude and perceptions towards Indian on the part of the United States;

(b) if so, whether there is a remarkable degree of understanding on a number of issues including terrorism;